

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00070 141134Z

16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /087 W

----- 091226

R 131710Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4943

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 0070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PDEV MOPS MR SS

SUBJECT: MAURITANIA BEGINS TO REGULARIZE PRESENCE IN WESTERN SAHARA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0053

1. MAURITANIAN DEPUTY GOVERNOR FOR SAHARA, ABDALLAHI OULD CHEIKH, LEFT NOUAKCHOTT JANUARY 12 FOR DAKHLA (VILLA CISNEROS) AFTER ONE DAY CONSULTATION WITH GIRM. ACCORDING JANUARY 13 CHAAB (GOVERNMENT RUN DAILY), OULD CHEIKH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY "IMPORTANT DELEGATION" REPRESENTING VARIOUS GIRM MINISTRIES. BUREAUCRATS WILL STUDY ON SCENE WAYS OF INITIATING GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00070 141134Z

SERVICES AT DAKHLA. GIRM DELEGATION WAS REPORTEDLY WELCOMED

TO DAKHLA BY LT. COL. VIAH OULD MAYOUF, CHEF DE CORPS, NATIONALE GENDARMERIE, WHO RECENTLY LED GIRM MILITARY FORCE INTO CITY. IN ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL, CHAAB NOTED: "AFTER THE SUCCESSIVE LIBERATION OF LA GUERA, TICHLA, AL-AARGUB, AND BIR GANDUZ, OUR GALLANT ARMED FORCES FULFILLING THIS WILLINGNESS TO REUNIFY OUR COUNTRY, YESTERDAY LIBERATED DAKHLA. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EVENT CAN ONLY BE FULLY PERCEIVED IF ONE APPRECIATES THE STRONG DESIRE OF OUR PEOPLE FOR UNIFICATION".

2. WEEKEND EDITION OF CHAAB RAN FULL PAGE PHOTO FEATURE FOLLOWING PRESS CORPS VISIT TO TICHLA, SAHARAN VILLAGE OF 400 TO 500 INHABITANTS LOCATED 350 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF NOUADHIBOU AND ABOUT 35 KILOMETERS DIRECTLY NORTH OF MAURITANIAN-SAHARAN BORDER. FEATURE ARTICLE NOTED THAT IT WAS MOST PROBABLY FROM TICHLA THAT ABOUT 150 POLISARIO SUPPORTERS EARLIER ATTACKED INAL, LOCATED ON IRON ORE RAILROAD WHICH RUNS BETWEEN ZOURATE AND NOUADHIBOU. ARTICLE REPORTED THAT LOCAL GENDARMERIE BRIGADE HAS BEEN FORMED AND IS CARRYING OUT POLICE FUNCTIONS. BRIGADE HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY SINCE JANUARY 5 FOR DISTRIBUTING FOOD TO DISPOSSESSED PERSONS. MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IN AND AROUND TICHLA IS REPORTEDLY DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO SOME 3,000 OR 4,000 NOMADS. SINCE BEGINNING OF DISTRIBUTION, NOMADS HAVE BEEN ARRIVING AT TICHLA IN "LARGE NUMBERS" AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN CANVASSING REGION IN SEARCH OF FAMILIES IN NEED OF FOOD. MAURITANIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE. TR3. COMMENT: UNTIL TODAY EMPHASIS OF GIRM SAHARA ACTIVITY HAS BEEN ON MILITARY ACTION AND SNP BY STEP OCCUPATION OF GROUND AND TAKE OVER OF SETTLEMENTS. IT NOW APPEARS GOVERNMENT MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO MATCH PREVIOUS THRUST WITH EQUAL EMPHASIS ON CREATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS WHICH CAN EFFECTIVELY GOVERN ITS SECTION OF SAHARA. TO WHAT EXTENT POLISARIO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY WILL HAMPER THIS EFFORT IS UNCLEAR. FACT THAT MAURITANIAN GOVERNOR IS SETTING UP SHOP IN DAKHLA AND REPORTED ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN TICHLA, HOWEVER, STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT GIRM IS NOW IN PROCESS OF REGULARIZING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00070 141134Z

ZING ITS PRESENCE IN SAHARA. HANDY SIDE

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